CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A dental x-ray positioning device comprising:

a frame;

a bite block connected to the frame;

an aiming ring connected to the frame; and

an image receptor holder connected to the frame;

wherein the aiming ring and image receptor holder are adjustable so as to allow the center of an x-ray beam directed through the aiming ring to be adjustable horizontally and vertically relative to the center of an image receptor retained by the image receptor holder.

2. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 1, further comprising an image receptor holder.

3. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 1, wherein the frame includes a first bar to which is connected the image receptor holder.

4. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 3, wherein the bite block is attached to and slidably adjustable along the first bar of the frame.

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5. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 4, wherein the bite block is interchangeable with other variously configured bite blocks.

6. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 4, wherein the first bar includes markings so as to measure adjustments of the bite block.

7. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 6, wherein the markings include indentations.

8. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 3, wherein the frame includes a second bar and an arm, the aiming ring being attached to the arm.

9. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 8, wherein the aiming ring is slidably adjustable along the arm.

10. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 9, wherein the arm includes markings so as to measure adjustments of the aiming ring along the arm.

11. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 10, wherein the markings include indentations.

12. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 8, wherein the arm includes a curved portion.

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13. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 3, wherein the first bar comprises a plurality of rods.

14. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 8, wherein the second bar comprises a plurality of rods.

15. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 1, wherein the image receptor holder is a u-shaped clip capable of holding an image receptor between the clips.

16. A dental x-ray positioning device as defined in claim 1, wherein the frame comprises first and second structural members, the first structural member having markings so as to measure vertical adjustments of the image receptor holder.

17. A method of using a dental x-ray positioning device to form an image of one or more of a patient's teeth, comprising:

providing a dental x-ray positioning device as recited in claim 1;

positioning the dental x-ray positioning device in a desired orientation relative to a patient's teeth; and

forming an x-ray image of at least a portion of the patient's teeth.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising forming a second x-ray image with the x-ray positioning device in the desired orientation.

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19. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising forming a second x-ray image with the x-ray positioning device in a different orientation.

20. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising adjusting the x-ray positioning device by moving at least one of the aiming ring and image receptor holder relative to the frame.

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